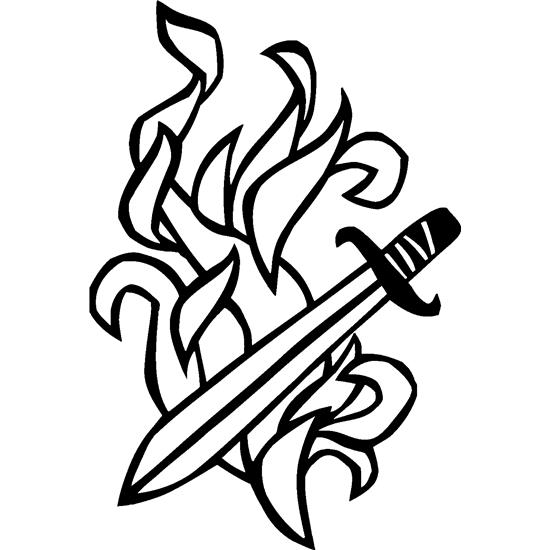
Sunday, August 16 & 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



*Christ Lutheran Church*

**“A Place Where You are Always Welcome”**

**Services: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:00 am**

**Sunday School: 9:00 am (September- May)**

600 North Main Street, Stockton, IL   61085 Office: 815-947-2033

Email: christlutheranchurch70@gmail.com http://www.christlutheranstockton.com

**Ministers:** **ALL members of the congregation**

***Pastor: Rev. Chrissy Salser*** [***chrissytherev@att.net***](mailto:chrissytherev@att.net) ***815-988-9450***

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***WELCOME:*** *Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are glad you are with us. Communion will be served in the aisle or in your pew. All are welcome to share this meal. Jesus is our host and invites everyone. Those who would like to come forward, bread and wine will also be available in the front. When directed by the usher, come forward down the center aisle, Pr Chrissy will give you bread (she will be masked and wearing cloves) and then you will take a cup of wine (grape juice) from the tray. After taking communion, you will return to your seat by the side aisle.* *For those who are unable to come forward, communion elements can be found as you entered worship. At that part of the service, you are invited to take the bread and wine (or grape juice) when Pr. Chrissy leads. On Saturday’s offering is collected as you enter or leave worship. On Sunday we will pass the plate as a response to God’s grace. Online giving is available. Please see QR code on back of bulletin or visit our website.*

### Introduction: The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

**Gathering:** *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**🕇CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.** **You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,** **but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.** **You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,** **but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us.** **Do not give up on us.**

**Heal us, break our bonds,** **and show us the path of life.** **Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through faith.

In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**C: Amen.**

🕇**GATHERING HYMN** **How Firm a Foundation ELW 796**

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🕇**Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

🕇**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God, **judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  **C:** **Amen.**

***Word:*** *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God’s judgment, he suffers rejection. Today’s reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God’s word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

23 Am I a God nearby, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” 26 How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27 They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29 Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

### P: The word the Lord C:  Thanks be to God.

### Psalm: Psalm 82

1 God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:  
2 **“How long will you judge unjustly,** **and show favor to the wicked?**  
3 Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;  
4 **rescue the weak and the poor;** **deliver them from the power of the wicked.**  
5 They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
6 **Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,** **and all of you children of  the Most High;**  
7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like  any prince.’ ”  
8 **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,** **for you shall take all nations for your own.**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.  
 32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.  
39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.  
12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

🕇**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Listen Now for the Gospel ACS 972 (next page)**

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### 🕇 Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

### P: The Gospel according to Luke C: Glory to you, O Lord

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God’s call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

[Jesus said:] 49 “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! 50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53 they will be divided:  
father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”  
54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

P: The Gospel of Our Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**BACKPACK BLESSING**

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY God be the Love to Search and Keep Me ACS 1084**

***O Christ Surround Me***

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🕇**APOSTLES’ CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

🕇**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

P. Hear Us, O God **C: Your Mercy is Great**

🕇**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always. C. **And also, with you.**

**OFFERING:** *Our offering is a significant act of worship; we worship God through our giving. The ministry of this congregation is completely dependent upon your partnership and generosity. Offering is collected as you enter worship on Saturday. We will pass the offering plate on Sundays. Online giving is available.*

**OFFERING HYMN: Goodness is Stronger than Evil ELW 721A sheet music with notes and words

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Creator God, **C: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,**

**that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY:**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all the drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

*Please come down the center aisle, take the bread, then receive a cup (wine is dark, juice is light, return to your seats via side aisle.) Those who prefer to take communion in your pews, we will take all together after all are served.*

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. *(All take bread).*

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you. *(All take the wine).*

🕇**TABLE BLESSING:**

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C. Amen.**

🕇**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: Mothering God, **C: you gathered us to your table** **and we drank deeply of your grace.**

**Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name**. **Amen**

**SENDING:** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

🕇**BLESSING:**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

🕇**SENDING HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ELW 815**

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🕇**DISMISSAL:** P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

***Updated address:*** *Teresa Hesselbacher Rm D16 Alden Debes 550 South Mulford Rd Rockford, Il 61108 cell phone 608-482-3720*

**IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY**: Teresa Hesselbacher, Darlene and Walt Steffes, Bob Schreck, Delores Wampfler, Marge and Gerald Arnold, Don & Judy Brudi, Grayson Raab, James Dieter, Christine Happ, Kay Hesselbacher, Mary Lou Bunker, Lillian Sefford, Jeff Encheff, Judy Wilson , Russ Synder, Don Kunz, Johnny Blair ***To add someone to the prayer list please contact Pastor Chrissy***

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES:**  Elijah Hass, Natalie Jordan, Lydia Jordan, Scott Cook, Kaelen Schubert, June Dittmar, Greg Harmston, Camerin Vincent, Kayla Starr, Greg and Eillen Lawfer, Roger and Inez Rowe, Ray and Tresa Tesmer

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thanks be to God for your gifts for the ministry of  Christ Lutheran Church \***these numbers do not reflect online giving- only offering in worship** | | | | Offering/ Attendance  Saturday August 9  Sunday August 10 | |
| Current Expense | $3,050.00 | Building Fund | $30.00 | August 9 | **18** |
| Benevolence | $10.00 |  |  | August 10 | **28** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Total** | **$3,090.00** |  |  |

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Description automatically generatedJuly Totals**:As a way to improve communication around finances, we are sharing the following information: \***these numbers reflect online giving contribution**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2025** | | |
|  | **July** | **Year to date** |
| Offerings: | **$8,492** | **$70,523** |
| Expenses: | **$ 11,090** | **$73,593** |
| ***Overall Gain / Loss*** | ***($2,598)*** | ***($3,070)*** |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE COMMUNITY TABLE:** The Community Table is an opportunity for outreach to the local community. This is a twice a month meal on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 11:30, here at Christ to gather for food, fellowship and fun, if you are interested in volunteering please talk with Janet Haas or Debbie Goebel.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** children’s Sunday school begins September 14th. **Volunteers are needed to teach Sunday School once a month.**

**RALLY DAY**: join us Sunday, September 7th in the Sanctuary at 9 am. We will be going on an adventure together as we kick off the Sunday School Year. Come ready to sing some songs, go on a road trip and eat some snacks. All ages are welcome.

**BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT:** Join us Sunday evening August 17, 2025, 5-8 pm, we will be meeting at Angie’s house 3626 Massbach Road for a chance to fellowship, swimming, fishing, hot dogs and smores. If you would like to fish, please bring your own fishing gear. Please bring your stuff for swimming and floaties. One more chance to gather and fellowship together before school begins. Bring a snack to share.

**BACKPACK BLESSING:** School is starting back soon! That means, we will have a special time during worship to bless your backpacks and briefcases for our teachers. Join us on Saturday, August 16 at 5:30 or Sunday, August 17 at 10 am for a special blessing to prepare you as you go back to school.

**WELCA CONVENTION:** All women in the Northern Illinois Synod are welcome to attend the 2025 Annual Convention Rescue, Redeem, Restore on Saturday, September 20, at First Lutheran Church in Rockford from 9-3. We will be joined by our keynote speaker Heidi Provo, Anti-Human Trafficking Case Manager and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist for Remedies Renewing Lives I- Rise Program. We are thankful for the Rev. Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop for our morning message.

**DIAKONIA:** The diakonia program is a two-year program with flexibility to suit the interest and needs of students. Diakonia is an exciting opportunity which provides a spiritual journey to lay individuals who wish to become more involved in their church or who want to better understand their faith. Diakonia meets once each week for two years during the school year. Individuals are joined by other students and teaching pastors for around the Synod to talk about the Bible Christian Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Lutheran Faith in the American Context and other topics. Students are also given the opportunity to discern what spiritual gifts they might have to use in service to Gods people. Anyone who is looking for a deeper spiritual connection with Christ is encouraged to try diakonia. For more information see Pastor Chrissy or Debbie Goebel.

**Upcoming Events**

* August 16- 8 am- Breaking Bread at The Copper Leaf Café (Stella’s)
* **August 16- 5:30 pm worship and Backpack blessing**
* **August 17 10 am Backpack Blessing during worship**
* **August 17- 5-8 pm Back to school night at Angie’s Pond**
* **August 19- 11:30 am Community Table**
* August 20- 7 pm Church Council
* August 23- 10-2 Brat Stand at Sullivan’s
* **September 2- 11:30 am Community Table**
* **September 7- 9 am RALLY Day**
* **September 7- Confirmation and Parent Meeting after worship**
* September 14- 9 am Sunday School Begin
* September 20- WELCA Convention